

# Point three

February 1994

The magazine of TOC H

Facing & Working with Failure / Our Role within a Group  
The Children Came Too / Your Letters  
Branch News / Book Review



## Point three

### The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

*Point three* is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per annum. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

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Cover: Photo by Jane Dance -  
*Nathan Dance enjoying a Colsterdale Cameo*



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# The Heart of the Story

The Bishop of Durham has done it again - he's brought religion into the news. But I'm amazed at the hostile reaction of so many people, either wanting him to retire or saying that he is undermining the simple faith of the many. How rude and how patronising.

For my part Bishop David Jenkins has made a significant contribution to the need to keep religion alive, by getting the real issues of Christianity discussed by people.

And what he is saying has been distorted in order to sell newspapers and sensationalise. The BBC news reported that he denies the Virgin Birth, and he has been heard to say that there is no evidence that there was 'no room at the inn'. Most shocking of all are reports that the Bishop doesn't believe that there were three wise men with gold and frankincense and myrrh. This, he said, was probably a story made up by the early Christian Church and, like all the others, rich in symbolism.

Christmas time is packaged as something to look forward to; full of magic and wonder and joy. A time for children, for indulgence and a thickening waistline. The reality for too many people is that it is a time of worry and anxiety, family feuds and loneliness.

So what is Christmas? What does it really mean? There is a baby in a manger, shepherds, angels and wise men with gifts, and decorations and carols. Should we keep the fairy story as it is and not question it in any way, because that might spoil peoples' holiday?

Why are these stories so important? Why are they there at all if not to illuminate something of much greater import - that the real message of Christmas is that a new-born baby brings hope. That God is born into the humility of ordinary life. That living is about caring and loving. Those who have borne children know that a birth brings great change: new hopes and dreams, new worries, a total change of priorities.

Wise men bearing gifts, shepherds and angels on a hillside, Father Christmas and decorations and parties do not bring hope. But a new born baby does. And this new-born baby is the child of the whole world, born into the life of each and every person throughout the whole world for us to love or abuse as we choose. This new-born baby is crucified every time anything hurtful or violent is done to another person. This new-born baby rises to a new life every time anything caring or loving is done for another person.

Bishop David Jenkins has done us all a great service by his hesitant and humble pronouncements. He has made us think again of the profound heart of the Christmas story. He has reminded us that it is too easy to become totally reliant on the superficial and so lose sight of the real truth. He has made us remember that the birth of this baby is a gift infinitely more precious than the tinsel and wrapping paper which surrounds it.

Thank you, Bishop David. You have underlined a message for Toc H: to remember what is really important and not get side-tracked by the wrapping.

Revd J Alan Johnson  
Epiphany 1994



# Branches and Groups — Being Active and Attractive!

Toc H branches need a plan of action to sustain the interest of potential members. Too few of our branches have the resources or strength of membership to maintain an active programme, but linking with others in the District can provide a much wider programme to which we can invite friends and neighbours. By sharing resources it should be possible to offer at least one active event per month which will reach new people. If we combine this monthly programme with the normal branch one these new people will be given a far wider choice of options for their continued involvement.

**E**vents should be publicised well ahead, with printed posters, leaflet distribution and regular press releases. Don't forget to tell your local radio station. Toc H needs to be better known. We cannot justify complaining about our low branch or group membership if no one knows of our existence!

**Here are some programme ideas. The list is not exhaustive and no doubt you have many others - one branch's good idea might be the answer to another branch's prayers!**

- ☐ A skittles evening
- ☐ The Mini-Handi Disco
- ☐ River and canal outings
- ☐ Local country-side exploration with a botanist or naturalist
- ☐ A talk from someone of different ethnic origin - take advantage of our multi-cultural society
- ☐ An evening hobby sharing
- ☐ A treasure hunt - combine it with a fund-raising buffet meal
- ☐ A children's fun run - invite local parents to help
- ☐ A barbecue
- ☐ A local history evening
- ☐ Host a quiz night.

**T**he main aim is to bring new people into branches. It is important that any



newcomers are well looked after and kept informed of subsequent events, even if they do not immediately attend branch meetings.

You will be surprised at how much you can achieve. My experience with the Cannock Chase project has been an eye-opener. I have certainly learned not to disregard ideas just because they are ambitious. The more people you involve the more you will spread the influence of Toc H, and it is vital not to be put off by the anticipated cost of a venture or to cut corners in order to save money. If your plan is worthwhile then money will be forthcoming.

## SOME SUCCESSFUL MEANS OF ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS

### New Group Method

Volunteers recruited from a small area were taken to Port Penrhyn where they worked with Bangor Conservation Volunteers. Conservation work was chosen as an activity that doesn't hamper the group's life, and time was built in for a wide

range of social activities. Slides were taken of their work together and these formed the basis of a pre-planned follow-up reunion, at which the volunteers and their guests were given a future programme which included service, social and fundraising events. Each was asked to indicate if they would be interested in organising them. Using this method two new groups were formed; one had strong membership involvement and thrived, the other closed within two years through a lack of committed leadership.

### Development Follow-Up

A group of members are each given five or six volunteers and asked to keep in regular contact for six months. These volunteers have all been on a Toc H activity. Members of the follow-up group support each other and organise a programme of simple-to-run, one-off activities that include service, social and fundraising events. No pressure is put on the volunteers to take part, they are simply kept informed of planned activities. This is proving successful and now volunteers often bring their friends with them.

**I**f you have any ideas to share with other members please let John Biggerstaff or Ruth Boyd know and these will then be featured in a 'Branch Bran Tub' column.

**Chris Williams**

Chris Williams has suggested that any planned activity should not be put off simply by a lack of money - that if it is worthwhile the money will be found. To this end, a Membership Development Fund is managed by the Branch/Group sub-Committee. Application forms and conditions can be obtained from John Biggerstaff at Headquarters.



# Facing and Working with Failure

I had been invited to speak with a group belonging to a Caribbean youth club; an innocent event that had devastating results.

It was an exciting challenge which filled me with apprehension. I prepared for it with care. I had 20 minutes in which to make an impact that might encourage them to volunteer. The project that I was trying to interest them in was one involving children with severe learning difficulties. I selected 20 slides to illustrate my talk and made notes on an index card about each slide. Two or three rehearsals using an audio tape left me feeling fairly confident.

Arriving at the club in ample time, I found the right room and set up my equipment. There was time to rearrange the seating and to run through the programme. My audience, about 30, exploded into the room shouting and laughing. Most of them seemed to have a canned drink; one party passed around a bottle of whisky.

Eventually they were all seated; disturbing my arrangement of chairs. Only then did the club leader make an appearance, yelling for silence. He quickly announced me and abruptly left, making no other explanation. The noise resumed as if it had never stopped.

As I began my introduction the noise abated a little. I put on the first slide and asked if someone would switch off the lights. No one moved. I saw to the lights, returned to the projector, and began my opening remarks. There was a great clatter as chairs fell to

the floor and the group with the whisky left the room by a rear door. I went on and after two more slides a second, larger group, left the room. By the time I was to show the sixth slide I was completely alone. Nothing had been said to me; it was as if I were invisible.

I must have stood, with that sixth slide showing, for two minutes. The youth leader came into the room, switched on all the lights, gave me an embarrassed smile, said: 'Sorry mate', and promptly left.

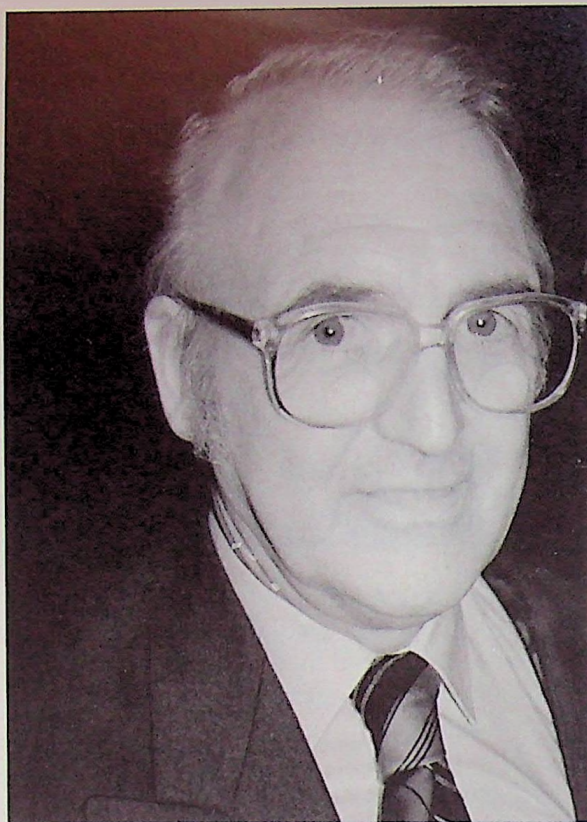
It took a little while to pack all the equipment. I had to make three trips to my car through the main hall. There were four table tennis games in full swing. In a long narrow alcove that ran the length of the hall were two pool tables surrounded by a large crowd. A raised part of the hall, that may have once been a stage, had been converted into a lounge area. It was set out with tables and chairs,

all of which were fully occupied. It was through this area that I had to weave my way to the car park. Everyone seemed to be shouting in order to be heard above the loud music. No one paid me any heed. The club leader seemed to have vanished. Once all the equipment was in the car I drove off at excessive speed. I finally stopped on the moors above the town, looking out on a carpet of lights, and wept.

A story of personal failure. An experience that disabled me for six months. The very thought of facing another group forced me to cancel arrangements in schools and colleges where previously I had looked forward to each encounter. It was only pressure of

work that dictated my return to public speaking. It was a long time before I could think about my experience without feelings of anxiety crowding my thoughts.

On the face of it, it was over-confidence that drew me into that situation. Invitations to speak in schools and colleges were routine opportunities for me to promote the work of projects and further the recruitment of volunteers. The invitation to the Caribbean youth club was simply another opportunity that I had eagerly accepted. With hindsight, I now wish that I had had the sense and, I suppose, the courtesy, to visit the club sometime before the official visit. This would have allowed for a discussion with the club leader; it would have enabled me to understand his role and the aims and objectives of the club; a chance to sample the atmosphere. Yet the very excitement at the invitation, coupled with that feeling of apprehension, ought to have been a warning. I was too





much influenced by the prospect of the possible result.

The right questions did not occur to me until afterwards. What were the leader's expectations? How was my audience chosen, or were they self-selecting? What reaction could I anticipate? Were speakers a normal part of the club's programme? And did the leader have any idea of the group's expectations? The previsit would have given me the opportunity of outlining my talk and asking his opinion on its suitability.

The other side of the coin was the leader's responsibility in discovering something about me, my organisation and subject. Once the date and time were agreed he did not contact me again. He made no enquiry about what I might need except to determine what equipment I was to use. He did not invite me to the club for an unofficial visit. He made no arrangement to meet me when I arrived. He was in a position to warn me about my possible reception. If he had known, he might at least have remained in the room to give his support. Everyone deserted me in my time of trial, and no one thanked me for coming. So a failure shared...?

All this is obvious after the event. The over-riding problem was the sense of personal failure. The anguish could have been eased if I had had the courage to admit it to someone I could trust. The Toc H lexicon has no words to help me, for whenever we meet no-one mentions failure. It is always the good things that are happening; the magazine only seemed to publish success stories. So it was years before I mentioned it to anyone.

Questions fill the mind when there is personal failure but we keep them to ourselves. There is danger in not being open. Failure has a great capacity to teach. It can stimulate research into the problems of planning and organisation. Where in the chain of events were the weak links, and what was the stress that caused them to break? What safeguards can be evolved that would cushion the impact on the people involved and the organisation? We should look at how failure can be redeemed and how we can use it constructively.

For the individuals concerned, there can be the irrational feeling of disloyalty, and the more understandable feelings of guilt, anger and frustration. Failure can

teach us how to handle such feelings and create a climate of trust. If we seek to be successful then failure must be acknowledged.

Bill Bains

#### Editor's note:

I will be joining Bill on the CAMEO weekend, *Facing and Working with Failure*, that he is running with Ann Crouch in Sheffield from 22-24 April. The intention is to explore failure - how does it feel to you when things go wrong? What can/should you do? Where do your responsibilities lie?

This is an event for anyone involved in projects, circles, branch life or any activity which has to face the possibility of failure. As the Chinese proverb says: *You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.*

Would any readers interested in joining this North East Region Cameo at Wortley Hall, Wortley, Sheffield, please contact Bill Bains at 25 Whinmoor Gardens, Leeds LS14 1AF

### Bird Baths and Bibles from the Friends of Cuddesdon House

The friends of Cuddesdon House are people who have so enjoyed their stay at Cuddesdon that they want both to provide some small additional comforts and also help to make it possible for others to have the same experience.

Among gifts received from the Friends in 1993 are lamps for the Evans Room and shelves and reading lights for the Quiet Room. The covered way between the house and the chapel has been much improved by the addition of window boxes and those sitting there can now look out on a bird bath and an Elizabethan vase. In response to a request from the National Chaplain, Bibles and prayer books have been provided for the chapel.

In addition to these practical gifts, which make life just that little bit more comfortable for guests, the Friends have also established a small Bursary Fund for members who may need financial help to enable them to stay at Cuddesdon House. Please write to us, in complete confidence, if you would like to apply for this help.

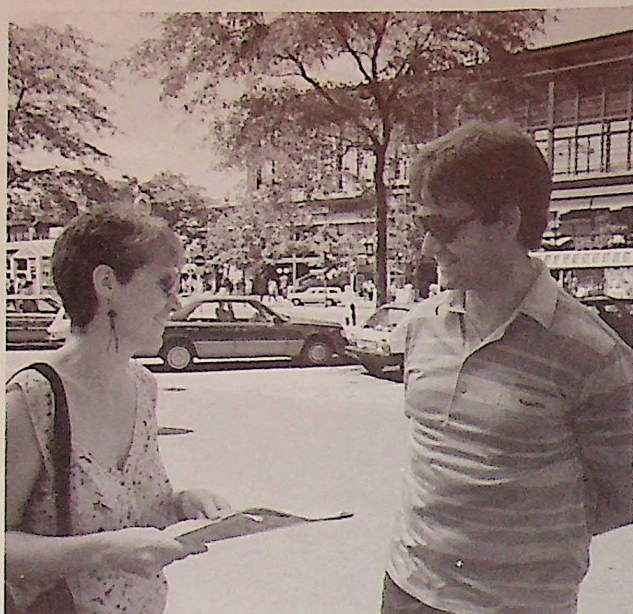
The Friends don't just contribute money. We also arrange an annual working party at the house. In 1994 we will be there between 2-5 June and we'd welcome your help.

The subscription to the Friends is £10 for branches and families and £5 for individuals though, of course, any donations, larger or smaller, are welcome. We circulate an annual balance sheet and newsletter to all Friends each April. If you are not already a Friend, why not join us now?

Megan and Harry Graham, Guardians of the Friends of Cuddesdon House, 7 Upper Park Avenue, Rushden, Northants NN10 9NY Tel/Fax: 0933 56671



# Our Role Within a Group



Anne Cooper is a recent volunteer with Toc H. She first became involved last summer, when she went to Germany with a Cameo Group to look at the division caused by the Berlin Wall. Anne took part in the National Cameo Review Weekend in October and then attended Lindridge House for leadership training. Anne tells us about her training and her impression of the spiritual nature of Toc H:

**G**roup activity plays a large part in our life, whether it is at home with family and friends deciding which TV programme to watch, or a night out at the pub. How do we behave in those situations? Do we like to stay quiet? Do we want to hold the centre of attention or do we try and make everyone feel involved? How often do we stop and reflect on our role within the group?

At a Leadership Training weekend at Lindridge House a group of us spent some time doing just that. Quite an unnerving experience. It's not often that we stand back from ourselves and objectively look at how we behave. (It may be said that it is impossible to look objectively at ourselves but at least we can try.) I had perceived that a leadership training weekend would look at facilitation and maybe direction, so when I saw the programme showing decision making and roles in groups I was a little surprised. An interesting topic,

but leadership? As the sessions continued I began to realise that the objectives of developing personal awareness and an understanding of group dynamics were in fact very important strengths in a leader.

Group dynamics are fascinating - but having to reflect on our own group dynamics resulted in some confusion, not to say frustration. It's not something we all practice, analysing our actions - the defences usually go up. It is at this point in the proceedings that observers come into their own. To have your own words and body language fed back to you is often amusing, occasionally uncomfortable, and sometimes a time of personal growth. In the course of one day the group moved from working as individuals or pairs, performing exercises which had no real relevance except as a means to an end, to a whole group performing the task, which was to reflect on those exercises. The more we grew

the more we were able to include others - to let others be heard and, perhaps more importantly, feel heard.

**O**n Saturday night, after a wonderful meal, we spent a very merry evening in front of a roaring fire. I have only been on a few Toc H events but the evenings have always been memorable. A guaranteed mixture of a good laugh and talk into the small hours.

On Sunday we looked at the spiritual nature of Toc H, especially at the reflection sessions. What were our feelings about them? There was quite a mixture of responses - mostly due to a variety of experiences. My first experience of a Toc H CAMEO was in Berlin in June. I was unsure of what to expect and what form the reflection sessions would take. I am not a Christian and wondered if it would focus on a Christian spirituality. However, I have found every reflection



session. I have intended to be an extremely listening experience. In Berlin so many feelings were stirred or allowed to surface that it was immensely powerful. Again at Lindridge I found that to be true. To be offered a quiet security and 'time out' from life, to allow feelings and thoughts to respond to words or music, is a very

spiritual experience regardless of your personal faith.

One of the strengths of Toc H as I see it, is that it brings together people and enables sharing. That special kind of sharing of yourself that not only gives time but also says 'I will listen'.

This kind of listening is most beautifully described in the following verse by Lao Tsze:

*It is as though he listened and such listening as his enfolds us in a silence in which at last we begin to hear what we are meant to be.*

Anne Cooper ■



## Concorde Flight!

What a Christmas present. I was lucky enough to win two tickets for a flight on Concorde on Christmas Sunday, courtesy of Mitsubishi Cars prize draw.

The day for John and I went all too quickly, but with such style! It began on arrival at Heathrow's Sheraton Skyline hotel with a champagne reception followed, on Concorde itself, by a four-course Christmas lunch and more champagne. At takeoff we shot from standstill to 250 mph in just 30 seconds, accelerating to Mach 2.4 when over the Atlantic (around 1,400 mph - that's fast!). We just glided above the clouds and were given a running commentary on what was going on within the plane, including how much and where the fuel was; apparently it's moved around during the flight for safety and better performance. During our 90 minute flight over the Bay of Biscay, at twice the speed of sound, we were allowed to visit the flight deck and take photos.

At the end of the journey we came away with souvenirs, including a model of Concorde and an 'I flew supersonic' certificate. What a memorable day - I'd recommend it to anyone.

Suzanne Dunwell



**Editor's note:** Suzanne is Regional Project Co-ordinator, North East Region. Husband John, who accompanied her on this wonderful treat, is a Development Officer based in Yorkshire. Children Eve (3½) and Ellie (2) were left behind with their grandparents!



The photos on this page are Jane's souvenir pictures taken on the Marrick Priory Project. Those on the facing page are her photos of the 'Poverty and Mental Health' Cameo at Colsterdale

# The Children



I am the divorced mother of two young boys (one parent being a dirty word at present) and discovered Toc H through my local Council for Voluntary Services. I was shown a project booklet and told that the children would be able to accompany me. The children have never had a holiday other than with relatives and I thought that through Toc H we might have some fun together away from the usual household chores. For my part a change would suit me as much as a rest and, in fact, I enjoy working. I looked through the booklet and we chose five days at Marrick Priory in Swaledale. The children were aged four and six at the time, were quite adaptable and the youngest was quite mature for his age. Neither cold nor rain bothers the boys and they enjoy sleeping in makeshift beds, so, despite my mother's warnings of cold, wet Dales, we were very excited at the prospect of a working holiday. However, once I had booked the project, despite having been told that the children were welcome and that the project was suitable for their ages, my concerns were numerous:

Would the children stop me from doing what was expected of me? - Would the children bother others in the group? - Would the children eat the meals they were given? - Would we be provided with any meals? - Would the children be bored? - Would bedwetting be a problem? - Would the children sleep? - Would they keep others awake or would the adults disturb the children? Would there be other children on the project? - If so, this might cause problems as my children can get over-excited and silly. - Would I be left alone every evening while the other members of the project went out? - How would we get from the station to Marrick? - Would I be able to carry the sleeping bags and all the baggage we were going to need for a five-day stay? (Thanks Steve, for your help!)



I needn't have worried. We met the Toc H mini-bus at Leeds station and I took along plenty of footwear, warm clothes, cash, sandwiches, biscuits and juice and also a plastic sheet for the bed.

Soon after arriving beds were sorted out according to needs and we were allocated a room of our own, which solved many of the afore-mentioned concerns. The boys were not catered for specifically, but were always considered along with everyone else in the group, and they responded to being treated as such. To their horror they were even given chores! The leaders, Rob and Pauline, adapted the project to the group rather than the boys having to fit in with the adults, which was much appreciated and was a significant factor in the success of the project. The work was varied but initially, to my great disappointment, I discovered that the onus was not in working as hard as possible, but in the group getting to know each other and enjoying both the work and leisure time. In some ways this was asking more of me than I had expected, but where the children were concerned it was ideal and, due





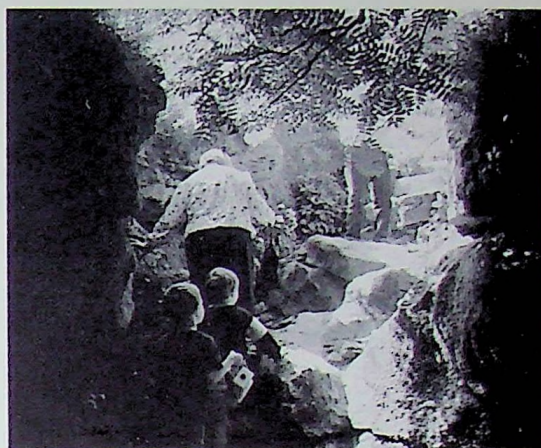
## er Came Too

to the variety of work, I could take on what most suited having the children with me. The children never went long without finding someone willing to take them under their wing and go looking for sheep bones or do some baking!

The food was excellent. It was cooked by Marrick staff and when necessary something different was cooked for the children.

Fortunately the children went to bed at a reasonable time which allayed my last worry. I think this helped the other members' enjoyment of the evenings and appreciation of the children in the day. I was never made to feel that the children should be out of the way, but I like to spend my evenings in peace and I was glad that they did feel secure enough to settle so well.

I had expected to have to miss out on nights out while I stayed and babysat, or that if there had been another family on the project we might be able to get the odd night out between us, but we made our own entertainment in the evenings and Marrick staff kindly babysat while we all went out one night. On another afternoon I went caving with the adults while the boys stayed behind with the Priory staff and climbed the indoor climbing wall and watched a video.



We three look back on this project as any other family might look back on a successful holiday. The children couldn't have behaved better. I think they contributed in their own small way and they gained so much too. They thoroughly enjoyed having so many men as their role models and to tag along with, which in itself was a treat for them. All three of us were treated to a variety of activities with a great group of people, making our stay at Marrick everything we could have hoped it would be.

Since Marrick I have taken the boys on a Cameo Weekend, when again we spent a marvellous time as a family and as a group. This time the children needed to be looked after away from the discussion sessions and a willing babysitter and seasoned frisbee thrower was found.



I thoroughly recommend taking children along on projects, but I do have one reservation. Having a number of children on one project would need special consideration, possibly specialised childcare. They are more likely to be disruptive and unpredictable due to the unknown influence they have on each other and could swing the whole balance of the project unfavourably. Accommodation would also be more difficult the more children there are. I hope that the number of children on projects will be strictly limited, even if it means that we might not be able to go on all those that we would like.



Jane Dance ■



# Your Letters

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## Making the Commitment

Sometimes an onlooker can see a situation more clearly, and from my perspective - as the wife of a long-serving member - the handicap to Toc H moving forward is the age of its membership. However, while I seldom get involved with projects, the district does very steady service at our local hospitals. Vic and Bob Court in particular have worked for years with fundraising, providing special hospital beds here in the Swindon area, and working among the special schools for disabled youngsters.

The big problem today is that age has crept up on many members. Some feel membership and projects are for life - till death us do part. But what we desperately need is young people. We have a similar problem within the church. We need young people who are ready to take over. The greatest problem today is that nobody has time any more. Events these days are so swift moving that time is almost as important as money. You find that people you meet don't have time for more than a passing 'Hello' before they have to move on to the next pressing appointment in their tight schedule.

When I was growing up I remember that people always had time for one another. There was much more interest and neighbourliness. The quality of life has changed dramatically, but not always for the best. The quality of family life has generally deteriorated. Television has taken over conversation. Children are seen, but seldom chat over their experiences with their families, and somehow a great inner meaning to family and life has got lost.

But the progress of civilisation has always had its ups and downs and a revival will come. In fact a new awakening is already in the air nationally. I have often wished Christians could speak out and argue their cause like the politicians do. Over recent years I have learned much about what public speaking entails. If only I were able to ask questions during a sermon, or at times dared to disagree with the speaker. I think everybody would be better off if they were more challenging. But Sunday by Sunday we sit there, listening and accepting what is said. We need to stand up and be counted a bit more.

Connie Davis  
Swindon

**Editor's note:** Connie's husband, Fred, is well known to readers through his lively participation at Central Council. He has recently had a knee-cap replacement operation and at the time of going to press is still in some pain in hospital at Stanmore. The knee is not healing as well as expected and we would like to extend our love and prayers to Fred and Connie.

## The Etheredge Centre

Thank you for the article in *Point three*, October, about the Etheredge Centre in South Africa. I would like to let members know that there are links with our fellow members overseas. I have been writing to Eunice Hixon, now National Pilot for South Africa, for over four years, forming a link between Solihull and Pretoria and the Transvaal.

Ken Prideaux-Brune encouraged overseas links a few years ago and I have a special affinity for Toc H SA as I have a son there. Doug Parker quoted 'strengthening the good things thus begun' for Toc H SA. In difficult times they have indeed been 'breaking down the barriers that divide men'.



Betty Wood  
Solihull



## An Old Friend Remembers

I was a member of Toc H from 1946 and came to Australia in 1967, where I again joined up with the Movement. I have very good memories of Toc H and was mostly serving overseas after the war with NAAFI and was in Hong Kong in 1946. Here I assisted in the Toc H canteen in St Andrew's Church in Kowloon. I suppose I was one of the founder members of Toc H Hong Kong after the war. I then went to Egypt for about six years and found Toc H in Fanara and had some fine times there. After 18 months I went up to Port Said then to Libya and on to Germany and was then able to visit Poperinge. My family and I were lucky enough to spend a week at the Old House when Tubby was there. What a wonderful week that was. After Germany I spent a few months in York and joined up with Toc H there, running a film unit before leaving to come to Australia.

I have not had any real news of Toc H in England for some time, but do hope that it is still very strong in

the UK. It would be nice to hear from fellow members who remember me.

**Leo (Tommy) Tucker**

78 Albany Crescent, Aspendale, Victoria, Australia 3195

## An Improved Toc H Badge

Having read many letters over the years asking for an improved badge, we at Wallasey Branch really do think that we should have a badge with not only the Lamp on it but, the words 'TOC H' printed clearly. The old Builder's badge was great, quite a decent size, square in shape, with the Lamp and Toc H on it. Having heard all the usual questions, 'What is the little Aladdin's Lamp/tea-pot?', we all think that our Movement deserves something better.

**Pat Murray**

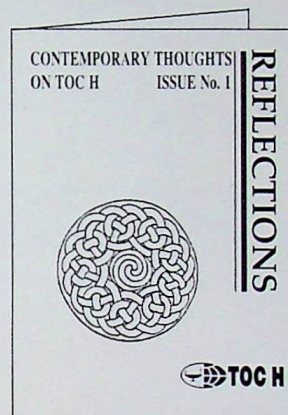
Wallasey Branch

## Reflections

The first booklet in a new series is now available and has been included in a branch mailing. Extra copies are available free of charge from Headquarters.

In it I argue the point that human beings are complex and that we need to look beneath the superficial to have any knowledge of them. This, of course, is part of Toc H's task as is our work in helping people to discover a faith to live by.

Contributions for other booklets in this series should be submitted through Ruth Boyd to an Editorial Board, consisting of the Editor, the National Chaplain and two Toc H members, Ken Prideaux-Brune and Neal Terry. The paper should be 5-6,000 words in length and should be on any matter relating to Toc H activity or ethos provided that it is not party-political, seeking to change the

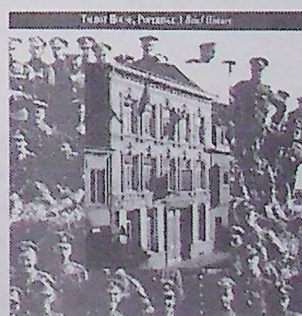


fundamentals of Toc H, or a platform for extreme views of any kind. Content should seek to be an exploration of, and sustained thinking in, an aspect of Toc H which will thereby increase understanding, provoke thought and stimulate ideas.

**Revd Alan Johnson**

## TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE *A Brief History*

An eight-page, full colour booklet, *Talbot House, A Brief History* has now been re-printed. Copies of this beautifully illustrated brochure, detailing the history of Talbot House and the founding of Toc H by Tubby Clayton, are available from Headquarters at £1 each, or 12 for £10, post and packaging included.





# BRANCH NEWS

## New Members

*Welcome to 7 new members*

Roy Whitfield (Berlin J Group)  
Mrs Gwendoline A Bellamy (Kempston J)  
Mrs Joyce Harper, Mrs Kathleen M Thomas  
(Llandrindod Wells J)  
Colin C Dunn (Netherton M)  
James O K Cobby (Seaford J)  
Miss Eve K Davies (Southampton District)



*Congratulations to Alan Brooke, Chairman of the Mid-East Region, who received the OBE for charitable and voluntary work in East Anglia in the New Year's Honours List.*

Congratulations to Keith and Anne Willis on their recent marriage. Anne, (formerly Evans), is Editor of the Former Staff Newsletter and would like members to know that, while she has a change of name for future correspondence, her address remains the same.

## Staff Appointments:

**Welcome** to John Matthews, who joined Toc H staff as Head of Finance and Properties on 6 January. John is taking over from John Cook and has considerable knowledge of Toc H already, having given valuable support as an Accountant for some months in the finance department at Wendover.

**Also**, to Tom Elliott, Divisional Membership Support Officer, Division 1, based at Wetherby, Yorkshire,  
Cliff Newman, Development Officer based at Bangor,  
and David Ruddy, Centre Manager, Lindridge House.

Congratulations to Penelope Bayley, Development Officer, Lindridge House, on becoming a grandmother. Readers will remember Penny's entertaining stories about the marriage of her only daughter Kim with Matthew, and then knitting for the great event a year later! Samuel weighed in at 8lb 5oz.

When Divisional PR & Appeals Officer, Stuart Wroe, recently visited Albert Ghekiere at Messines and heard the Peace Carillon of Bells, it became apparent to him that, amongst the thousands of folk tunes from around the world held on the Carillon's computer, there was a glaring omission. Thanks to Stuart, visitors can now be regaled with that greatest of all tunes, *On Ilkley Moor Baht'at*.



Members of **Great Harwood Branch** were so impressed with the television programme 999, in which BBC presenter Michael Burke related life-or-death tales, that they decided to enlist the help of the St John Ambulance to pass on first-aid techniques. The result was two well supported sessions held at Central Methodist Church, Great Harwood, with people learning the kiss of life, how to staunch heavy bleeding and how to prevent someone from choking. Even the Mayor of Hyndburn, Councillor Mrs Sonia Bramley-Haworth, enthusiastically took part in the whole lesson. David Edgar, Branch Chairman, writes: 'Members were sufficiently satisfied with the course to consider arranging another session in the New Year, before moving on to a Safety in the Home course, for which we will enlist the help of the Fire Service.'

*Photo reproduced by kind permission of  
The Accrington Observer*





Pam Bishop, regional project co-ordinator, introduced the **West Somerset District Project Support Group** to the important work being carried out by the Albermarle Centre in Taunton.

Len Sebright writes:

'The Albermarle Centre is a voluntary organisation concerned with enabling people with special needs to integrate into the wider community. Operating from a converted Baptist Chapel, it is run mainly by volunteers who give freely of their time and experience. For several years our District has taken full advantage of the friendly atmosphere at Lindridge House to hold weekend breaks for those with special needs, and it is the Albermarle that has provided contact with such people. Through this mutual respect, the Albermarle invited Toc H to provide leaders and volunteers to run their third annual Play Scheme for youngsters aged 11-15 years, and after careful consideration we agreed that our 1993 Project would be a joint effort with the Albermarle.'

Working together can be beneficial in other ways. As one of the 14 organisations represented on the Taunton Council for Voluntary Services, Toc H is able to make its own contribution to the Council's work without in any way departing from its fundamental beliefs and is now represented on the Executive Committee of CVS.'



Lionel Holden, of **Worthing Branch**, riding on the grouse moors in Cumbria. Lionel has been a Toc H member since 1927 and, as well as being a keen rider, goes fell walking in June each year.

#### News from Toc H Western Australia:

Harold Clay writes from Mandurah in Western Australia, to wish Toc H UK 'a very Happy New Year with good health, happiness and success in everything you do'. One of Harold's pleasant tasks at Christmas time is being Father Christmas to 150 children at the social club of Western Mining, one of the largest mining groups in Australia, of which Harold was a founder member and first President. Readers in the UK will be envious to learn that the daily temperatures at this time of the year in WA are between 25 to 35 deg. C.



*Revellers at the Christmas party for the housebound, held by Ipswich Women's and Men's Branches.*



Project leader Jim Simpson from Melton Mowbray sent in this photograph of a friend he made when staying at Poacher's Den and visiting a local nursing home to sing carols before Christmas. The lady pictured was a great fan of Tubby Clayton and, on a memorable visit by him to Spalding, she was so overcome that she rushed across the street to kiss him! Jim wonders whether any readers recall the visit to Spalding and could put a date to it.



## Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members

In August	Yvonne T Banfield (Hayes)
In September	Walter C Toogood (Nailsea)
In October	Bessie Ashcroft (Leigh) Edith Done (Mansfield Woodhouse)
In November	Eileen M Homer-Ertzbischoff (Paris) George H Fitter (S E Regional Branch)
In December	Elsie M Alexander (Hemel Hempstead) Molly Corke (St Johns, Tunbridge Wells) Josefien Cornette (Swans, Poperinge) Isabel W Gatiss (Falmouth) Harold B Johnson (London District) Lily E Kregel (Cambridge) William Pedley (Wolverton) Alan W Salisbury (Northampton) Mabel P Stainer (Fareham) Ernest R Steiner (Wellingbrough)

## Special Tributes

**William Pedley**, a member of Wolverton Men's Branch, died on 1 December. He was an active member of the church and was devoted to Toc H. Always kind and cheerful, he had a sense of humour which was the envy of many. He was liked by everyone and will be missed by many, especially his friends in Toc H. GP

It is with deep regret that St John's Women's Branch in Tunbridge Wells report the death of **Miss Molly Corke**. She was an active Branch officer for many years, taking on the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship after being Treasurer. Unfortunately she had to give this up when her eyesight failed. Molly continued to appreciate *Point three* in tape form, and was also able to knit many jumpers and blankets for Oxfam. We will all miss her. MM

**Fred Vosper**, a very loyal secretary of the former Plymth Branch, died in December. He often spoke of the film shows he was very much a part of in the late 1940s at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. Fred regularly attended Hope Baptist Church and will be missed by his many friends. JD

**Harold Johnson**, a member of Edmonton Branch (now closed), died on 5 December. Harold joined Toc H in the early 1950s and was Branch Chairman for many years and had also served as Chairman of New River District and North London area. His contribution to Toc H was a good example of leadership. He was a very popular member who could always be relied on to do a job of service for Toc H and the community. Harold will be sadly missed by all his friends who had the privilege of knowing him. GAS

It is with pride and sadness that members of Falmouth Branch report the death just before Christmas of **Isabel Gatiss**. She joined Toc H in Coronation Year through Hartlepool Ladies Branch and joined Falmouth Ladies in 1959, which later became a joint branch thus reuniting her with her husband Ron, currently Branch Treasurer. A car accident some years ago caused Isabel to slowly lose her mobility, but despite being housebound for the last couple of years she continued to entertain her many visitors. She will be much missed. TR

**Josefien Cornette** of Poperinge, died on 12 December. This brought to an end a significant era in the development of Talbot House as we know it today. She lived with her two older sisters who kept open house to Toc H visitors at their hospitable home. The Cornette family had an important influence on the Old House and 'Fien' in particular worked hard to develop the liaison between the local Church and Talbot House. It was on her recommendation to Dean Lootens that Bishop De Smet of Bruges attended a magnificent 'Te Deum' on the 50th anniversary of Toc H in 1965, with Tubby fully robed and taking part in the service. St Bertin's Church was packed for the occasion. Later 'Fien' founded the Belgian 'Friends of Talbot House'. She continued actively until September 1986, when sadly ill-health began to take its toll. The death of her sole remaining sister Anna in January 1988 affected her considerably. Her passing will be felt by many Toc H members. Both she and her family have done so much for the Old House as we know it today. We shall miss her very much. RJRT



## BOOK Review

### Earth in the Balance

by Al Gore

Published by Earthscan - Price £14.95

This book was published the year before Al Gore became Vice President of the USA. It is 368 pages in length, very well written and his arguments are easy to follow.

The book challenges the facile assumption we all make that the earth's resources are so vast that human activities do not challenge the continued existence of human life in the definite future. The author points out that the world population, after being stable for most of human history, is now growing at an increasing rate. Although at the beginning of this century the population of the world was about 1 billion, last year it reached 5.5 billion and at the present rate of growth is expected to reach 9 billion by 2032. Al Gore studies the effect of population on the world's resources of air, water and soil and concludes that already the growth of population has had a measurable effect on the resources available to us. We have all heard of the greenhouse effect, with increasing carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere and the diminution of the ozone layer influencing the amount of radiation we receive from the sun. I had not realised that other threatening developments extend also to the resources of water and soil, and the author's well-researched account makes it clear that one could be justified in having extreme pessimism that the world will be uninhabitable some time in the next century.

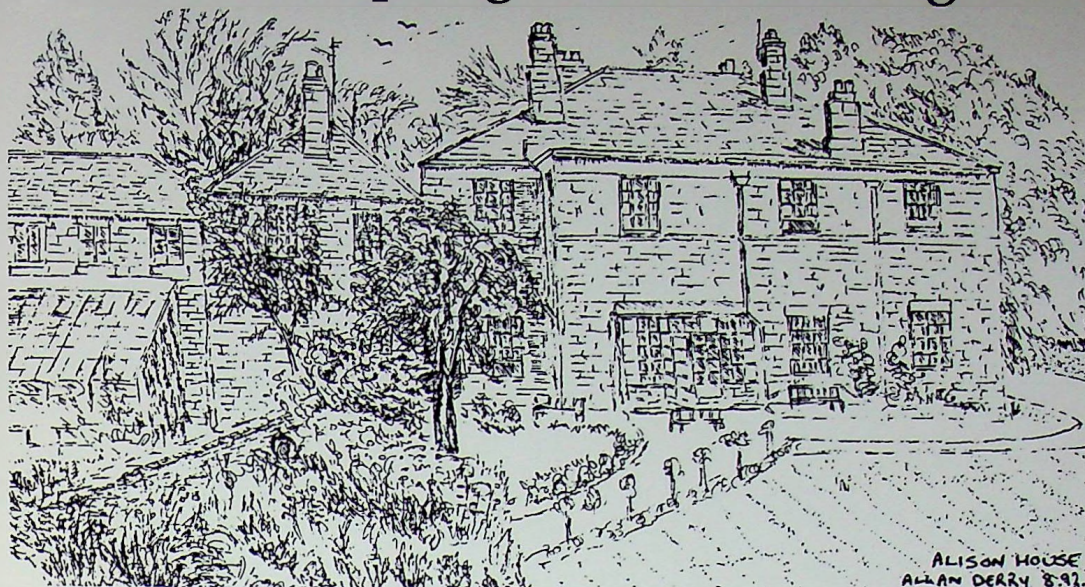
The extreme pessimism which comes out clearly in the book is balanced by what many may feel is an extreme optimism, fuelled by his strong personal Christian commitment, in that Mr Gore feels that the USA being one of the main contributors to the spoilation of our resources has also the ability to initiate, lead and carry through what he terms as a global Marshall plan, in which all the people of the earth unite, not only in limiting the population growth, but in controlling the developments which threaten the future of the earth being kept in balance.

In a personal letter, the author claims that he finds he can use his present position to start work on the policy he has written about.

George Davis



# Alison House Spring & Summer Programme



*Allan Derry has been an enthusiastic attendee of Harry Muscott's excellent art weeks at Alison House for a number of years. He has sent in this sample of his work to encourage members to enrol for one of this year's painting weeks.*

## **Spring Painting Week: 23 - 29 April**

Tutor: Harry Muscott ATD NDD FRSA

Due to popular demand we are again offering an additional Painting Week with Mr Harry Muscott. An opportunity for the experienced artist and beginner to enjoy the delights of Derbyshire in early Spring. New approaches and techniques can be practiced in a relaxed atmosphere with expert advice and tuition.

*Price £150 per person, inclusive of VAT*

## **Pastels & Oils: 8 - 13 May Tutor: David Newbould**

David's enthusiastic and down-to-earth approach to painting will inspire the individual artist, while catering for the experienced and the complete novice. He will show new ways of mixing soft pastels with inks and the use of oils in landscape, portrait and still-life painting - with the emphasis on practical work. *Price £160 per person, inclusive of VAT*

## **Alison House Spring Garden Project: 23 - 27 May**

With John Biggerstaff

An exciting project which will include transforming a neglected part of the grounds into a natural woodland containing British wild flowers and grasses. *Price £35 per person, inclusive of VAT*

## **The Brew Holiday Week: 2 - 9 July**

With Vera Brew as your Hostess

More than a holiday - an experience of care and fellowship in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Alison House. Enjoy good food and company with time to discover the many interesting facts and places that make this historic part of Derbyshire unique.

*Price £175 per person, inclusive of VAT*

## **Summer Painting Week: 23 - 30 July**

Tutor: Harry Muscott ATD NDD FRSA

Enjoy an artistic and refreshing week by joining our Summer Painting Holiday in the attractive and inspiring surroundings of Cromford. The week provides an opportunity to express your creativity through almost any medium you choose. Beginners are welcomed and encouraged. The experienced have time to practice and experiment with new approaches and techniques.

*Price £175 per person, inclusive of VAT*

## **Friends of Alison House Week: 7 - 13 August**

Join the Friends of Alison House and enjoy a truly traditional week including walks, competitions and an opportunity to visit local events, while still leaving plenty of time for individual pursuits and relaxation in the peaceful atmosphere of Alison House. Each evening there is an activity to interest, amuse or maybe even educate you. An opportunity to visit a country house or garden is usually arranged, as is a trip to the theatre.

*Price £175 per person, inclusive of VAT (excluding outings)*

## **Alison House Autumn Gardening: 3 - 7 October**

Join other like-minded garden enthusiasts in the glories of Autumn, helping to prepare Alison House gardens for Winter and the following Spring.

*Price £35 per person, incl. of VAT*

*Further details of these and other events at Alison House may be obtained by sending a SAE to: Bill and Dorothy Pepper, Alison House Training and Conference Centre, Intake Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RH*



## Intergroup Event

27-30 May 1994

Damascus House, The Ridgeway,  
Mill Hill, London NW7 1HH

Over the past 12 months members and staff have had opportunities to learn about how people behave in groups. The Intergroup Event is the next stage on from this, when people will develop some understanding of how a number of small groups behave in relation to each other.

We hope you will sign up for this if you have previously taken part in the 'People in Groups' events which were run during 1993, or if you have had other experience in small groups.

This event is planned to take place over the bank holiday so that members will be able to attend for the slightly longer period of four days. There will also be room for people from outside Toc H.

*For an application form and further details please write to:*  
Jackie Bartlett, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

## People in Groups

Cuddesdon House -  
25-28 April 1994

Another chance to take part in this increasingly popular and exciting event.

The aims are to enable people to become more aware of how groups operate (group process) and of how they themselves behave in groups.

Cost to members is £15. This event is also open to people from outside Toc H.

*For application form and further details please write to:*  
Jackie Bartlett, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

## A Traditional Retreat at Cuddesdon House

20 - 22 April

From lunch to lunch inclusive,  
this will be led by the Revd Alan Johnson.

Cost £35.

For further details please contact  
Margaret Winstanley,  
Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close,  
Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

## Colsterdale Mini Breaks '94

A programme of short breaks designed for groups of  
between 12 and 15 people.

Decide which mini-break your group would like and a convenient date, and we will make all the arrangements. All are for four days and three nights and are available in April, May and June.

**KIRKS TO CATHEDRALS:** Conducted tours of Ripon and Durham Cathedral and York Minster. Includes visits to beautiful village churches in The Dales.

**WOODMAN WAYS:** Explore a medieval wood with an experienced naturalist and discover rare orchids and plants. (Available June only).

**REFRESH THE HEART:** Leave your cares behind and relax in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Excursions and gentle activities included.

**THE HERRIOT TRAIL:** Enjoy a drink in 'The Drovers' and see 'Skeldale House'. Conducted countryside walks in Herriot country.

**FAITH IN NATURE:** A look at how faith can be increased through nature. Spend an hour in complete silence in a woodland glade. Includes visits to farms and conducted walks.

**ANGEL VOICES:** Are you interested in church music and singing? Practice in the morning and sing in the afternoon in a village church in the Dales.

For further details send a large SAE to:  
Keith Crocker, The Toc H Centre, Colsterdale, Near Ripon,  
North Yorkshire HG4 4NN. Tel: 0765 689382

## Cuddesdon House Training and Conference Centre

Set in a quiet village in the heart of Oxfordshire and yet within easy reach of the M40 with access to the West Midlands, London and the Home Counties, Cuddesdon House makes an ideal venue for small conferences and for training events.

Five acres of grounds ensure a tranquil setting and a perfect escape from the daily distractions of work.

A good selection of audio/visual equipment is available, sufficient to meet most needs.

Competitive terms are offered for events, small or large, with catering and limited residential facilities available if required.

*For further details please contact:*  
Robin McSurley, Centre Manager, Cuddesdon House,  
Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire OX44 9HB. Tel: 0865 872004

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

## Falmouth Toc H Holiday House

Accommodation for 5 plus cot.

Open all year.

Enquiries Ron Gatiss - Tel: 0326 312689